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NEW YORK TIMES
6 November 1983

GRENADA PULLOUT DUE WITHIN WEEKS

Congressmen Say Troops Will Go Despite Pleas to Stay

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Special to The New York Times

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Nov. 5 — Members of a Congressional fact-finding delegation told Grenadian officials today that all United States military troops were expected to leave "within weeks" despite requests by eastern Caribbean nations that the soldiers remain.

At the same time, several members of the bipartisan delegation, which came to Grenada at the request of the Speaker of the House, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., Democrat of Massachusetts, made it plain after listening to military briefings that new doubts about the quality of American intelligence, the degree of Cuban military involvement and the specific reasons for the invasion left them troubled.

The 14-member delegation arrived Friday. Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives decided Oct. 31 to send the group to investigate why American troops were sent to invade Grenada and how long they might remain. Republican leaders then endorsed the idea and said they would send Representatives to join the Democrats.

Representative Thomas S. Foley, Democrat of Washington, the leader of the delegation, said that despite "very strong disagreements" within the group about the invasion, the single theme that had dominated the visit so far was the necessity to withdraw the remaining 2,500 American soldiers within weeks.

Mr. Foley and others in the delegation said the withdrawal of the troops of the 82d Airborne Division would leave a vacuum as Grenada forms a constitutional government. Congressional and State Department officials said the Reagan Administration was seeking to shape an interim Commonwealth peacekeeping force that would include troops from Caribbean nations as well as Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In meetings Friday night and today, Mr. Foley as well as the House minority leader, Representative Robert H. Michel, Republican of Illinois, and others in the delegation made it clear to Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor General, and to Col. Ken Barnes, the Jamaican officer who heads the 300-member Caribbean force, that the mood of Congress, the Administration and the American public was to pull out the American troops as quickly as possible.

"We're talking about withdrawing soldiers within weeks," Mr. Foley said, "several weeks."

Troop Strength Was 6,000

Initially, more than 6,000 United States troops participated in the invasion of the 133-square-mile island after appeals from Grenada's Caribbean neighbors that the United States send a force to restore order and rescue 1,000 potentially endangered Americans, mostly medical students. At least 18 soldiers died in the invasion.

Aides traveling with the Congressional group said Sir Paul was seeking to form an interim government and then hold elections.

Sir Paul, Colonel Barnes and labor and business leaders have urged a continued American presence for several reasons. They said eastern Caribbean nations were barely equipped to join a peacekeeping force — several of these nations have no armed force at all. They also said the presence of American troops had been warmly welcomed in Grenada and had quickly created a sense of normalcy in a situation that verged on the chaotic two weeks ago.

Soviet and Libyan diplomats have been expelled in recent days, and the Cuban Mission is under guard and may close after some 600 Cuban prisoners are returned home.

The Congressional delegation includes members of the House Armed Services Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Intelligence Committees as well as aides.

In their two-night stay in Grenada, they are meeting ranking officers of the 82d Airborne Division as well as enlisted men and are conferring with Grenadian officials, visiting the site beside the Point Salines airstrip where Cuban prisoners are being held and conferring with Grenadian and Caribbean officials.

At a briefing late Friday at the still-incomplete Port Salines airport, Maj. Gen. Edward Trobaugh, commander of the 82d Airborne Division, told the Congressmen that the Grenadian People's Revolutionary Army had generally been an inept combat force but that the Cubans had fought well.

He said the Grenadians were "a go-along-to-get-along outfit."

"When the firing began," the general said, "they started to fold. There were a lot of Grenadians out there who didn't believe in Cuba or Communists. They were there for \$7 a day, which is more than they could make in St. George's."

Of the Cubans, he said, "We didn't think we'd get into as much of a fight as we did."

General Trobaugh said his troops found 8.5 million rounds of ammunition in Grenada. "I don't get that much in a year for the 82d," he said.

'Just Plain Confused'

Several members of Congress expressed skepticism about the rationale for the invasion, and the information they received today seemed to confirm some of their doubts.

"I think we are just plain confused about why the United States went in," said Representative Don L. Bonker, Democrat of Washington, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, as he walked beside warehouses crammed with Soviet AK-47 rifles, 82-millimeter mortars, antiaircraft cannons and Czechoslovak-made hand grenades.

"What we're finding is impressive in terms of Cuban and Eastern European military equipment," he said, "but when the President announced his reasons for the invasion, all he said was that we were going in to save American lives and end the political chaos here, nothing about Cuban weapons."

"I'm still not convinced that rescuing U.S. nationals was a justified case for an invasion," he said, "because the evidence was their lives were not in danger. In Congress, I think, the jury is still out. Just why did we invade this place?"

'Why Was All That There?'

Nonetheless, one Congressional aide, who described himself as "one of the more left-wing people on this trip," said he was impressed at the stacked warehouses of weapons in Frequente, on the southern tip of Grenada.

"What is that warehouse?" the aide said. "Why was all that there?"

He said that after the military briefings, the consensus among some of the Congressmen who opposed the invasion was that "there seems to be a potential threat here, but not an actual threat."

Such a view was disputed by several senior Democrats and Republicans on the Armed Services Committee, including Representative Samuel S. Stratton, Democrat of New York, and Representative Elwood Hillis, Republican of Indiana.

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